

Ben Adaji/Jalingo

The agony of Rose Emmanuel, widow of Emmanuel Idris who was brutally murdered in Jalingo, Taraba State three weeks ago by unknown gunmen is further worsened by the seeming inability of the police to apprehend the killers.

Idris, a minor car dealer, was killed in his house at Abuja Phase II area of Jalingo recently. The 38-year-old widow and relations of the deceased are however puzzled by the circumstances of his death and wonder whether Idris was a victim of hired killers or armed robbers, as many were made to believe by the police.

According to Rose, the drama started at about 1:30am on Sunday 8 June when some unknown persons forced their way into their compound while the couple was asleep in the bedroom.

She said she was roused by strange sounds of movement in the compound and decided to wake-up her husband. Before she could do so, however, one of the intruders was already pointing a torchlight and a gun at her through the window of the bedroom. "I shouted, 'Jesus'," she said.

Rose said the man at the window then shouted: "Bros, we are around, get up and open the door for us." She added that her husband who woke up confused and also shouted, "Jesus, Jesus," but one of the men ordered again: "Go and open the door or else I will fire you and your wife."

At this point, it dawned on the couple that the intruders were not there for a

vigil. Quickly running to a corner of the room, they began to cry out for help. Rose said they both kept shouting, calling on neighbours for help for over one hour, to no avail. Meanwhile, the maulers, about five, were busy shooting and breaking windows to gain entry into the house. When they finally removed the burglar proof of one of the windows, Rose said, "my husband shouted, 'we are finished.' He moved closer to the main door, where one of the men opened fire and shot my husband in the forehead."

After her husband fell to the floor, bleeding profusely, she pleaded with one of them who was pointing a gun at her head not to kill her as she was prepared to give them all the money in the house. She added that she quickly ran into the bedroom and brought her handbag containing about N30,000.00 and gave it to them.

According to the widow, when they removed the money from the bag and ran out of the compound, she went to her husband who was gasping for breath in his prostrate position and thereafter ran outside the compound, wailing to neighbours to help

• Emmanuel Idris' corpse; (below) when he was alive.

One Curious Murder

Tongues are wagging over the death of a second hand car dealer in Jalingo, Taraba State and the seeming inability of the police to track down the killers

convey him to the hospital. But nobody responded. She said she kept running and shouting in the dark for about one kilometre to call a family friend who accompanied her to the house, only to discover that her husband was already dead. She lamented that throughout their ordeal, which lasted for over two hours, there was no sign of the police in the area, saying the same family friend took her to the Police Area Command to report the incident. The police accompanied her to the scene of the incident and met the bloodied body of Idris.

This magazine gathered that few hours after the matter was reported to the police, the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Richard Chime, personally visited the scene and directed his men to convey Idris's corpse to the Jalingo Specialist Hospital mortuary. He also promised that the police will investigate the matter with the view to fishing out the culprits.

Three weeks after Idris' death, however, the police are yet to establish whether he was a victim of a planned attack or armed robbery. The Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Solomon Isa, told this magazine last week that police were yet to effect any

